

DATABASES SYNCHRONIZATION**Field of the Invention**

5 The invention deals with synchronization of databases. Data synchronization is the act of establishing equivalence between two data collections, where each data element in one item maps to a data item in the other, and each item and its respective mapping having a content which is equivalent.

10 **Prior Art**

 The existing technology allows Terminal Equipments to exchange and to synchronize data with an external device. The way that a synchronization process is requested depends on the protocol used, which is based on the capabilities of the
15 terminal equipment.

 US 6, 505,215 discloses a method for synchronizing databases, a first database being stored in a first data processing system, a second database being stored in a second data processing system,

 said method comprising:

- 20 a. A loading step in which an application is loaded into said first data processing system;
- b. An execution step in which the application executes a command;
- c. A requesting step in which said command requests the first data processing system to process a synchronization step, said command providing the first
25 data processing system with the information about the synchronization parameters to be used for synchronizing the content of the first and the second databases.

 In this prior reference, the first data processing system is a small
30 microprocessor based computer system such as a cellular phone or a handheld personal information manager.

 This invention particularly applies to security tokens such as smart cards, potentially equipped with a subscription related application provided by a service
35 provider or network operator. This application can be indifferently a SIM (Subscriber

Identity Module), a USIM (Universal Subscriber Identity Module), a RUIM (Removable User Identity Module) or any emergent smart card application managed/controlled by an entity such as an operator.

5 If an operator wants to create his own data synchronization applications (e.g. to provide management procedures linked to synchronization process), some important facts shall be considered:

 -The operator does not own the terminal equipment. It is owned by the user
10 (see the reference cited above).

 -Most terminal manufacturers do not provide standardized capabilities to implement customizable applications in their terminals.

15 -Applications present in the terminals are not controlled by the operator (see also the above cited reference).

 -There is a standardized way to update/download applications in the card.

20 **The Invention**

 The main objective of the invention is to apply the technology known by the above mentioned prior document to the control of the synchronization processes of a mobile equipment using a security token thereby rendering the process easier and
25 more reliable, in particular in the field of security.

 The invention has therefore as an object a method of the kind defined here above characterised in that

 said first data processing system includes a security token controlled by an
30 operator and in that said application is loaded into said security token.

 In this way, the command will operate as an interface between the application and the synchronization capabilities of the User Equipment.

 The card is owned and controlled by the operator. Moreover, the card
35 applications can interact with the terminal, the user, and the network by means of

existing "Card Application Toolkit" commands. In this way, according to the invention, the synchronization process is initiated by the card and not the mobile phone. This new command is added within the Card Application Toolkit that can be launched either locally by the user or a special application, or either remotely by the operator via the existing OTA (Over The Air) process. So, the invention can be applied to allow a user or a card application to command the execution of a data synchronization process between a UE (User Equipment) and an external entity. A User Equipment is a device allowing a user access to network services. The User Equipment is at least composed of a terminal equipment (e.g. a mobile equipment) and a smart card.

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In our example, this new command will send to the mobile the information needed to perform the synchronization: source device, destination device, used synchronization protocol, used transport layer, type of synchronization and database to synchronize.

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It will be easier to understand the invention on reading the description below, given as an example and referring to the attached drawings.

In the drawing:

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Figure 1 is a block diagram view of the architecture of a computer system on which the solution can be applied. On this figure appear some arrows illustrating different steps of the invention.

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Detailed description of examples illustrating the invention

A Mobile Network Operator (MNO) implements a device management system consisting in the following components (see figure 1):

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-A database DB1 in the mobile (MOB) containing a list of basic parameters (i.e. IMEI, used language, sounds, etc...) and a list of applications and games that are installed in the device together with their operating parameters (version, size,...). This database is called Local Device Management Database. In another example, this database should have been stored in the SIM card itself.

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-A copy of this database DB2 in a MNO's server. Let us call this database MNO's Device Management Database.

5 -A device management application in the SIM. This application is controlled and managed by the MNO. The application is in charge of analysing different parameters (e.g. time that the equipment has been connected) and can dialog with the MNO through a secured channel.

10 Thanks to the command in the card Application Toolkit, following the MNO's synchronization policy, the SIM application is able to ask the mobile equipment to start a synchronization process of his Local Device Management Database with the MNO's Device Management Database.

15 This synchronization can be summarized as follows: (see fig.1)

A. The MNO installs a device management application in the subscriber's SIM. The MNO may update this application or modify any parameters used since this is completely controlled by him through a secured communication channel.

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B. The card CAR is informed of different events that may occur in the mobile equipment or in the network. The device management application may be informed of these events. This may include data regarding terminal capabilities.

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C. Following the MNO's policy contained in the device management application and considering the events and/or messages received, the device management application may conclude that a synchronization of the Mobile Local Database with the MNO's Device Management Database is needed.

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D. The device management application uses a new command in the card application toolkit: "Request Synchronization". This command informs the mobile that a new synchronization is requested. In a preferred embodiment, the device management application gives to the mobile synchronization agent the following information:

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- synchronization protocol: Synchronization protocol that should be used. (e.g. SYNCML)
- 5 - session/transport layer: Transport or session layer that should be used (e.g. WSP)
- type of synchronization: Type of synchronization that should be used (e.g. refresh from the client)
- 10 - Source database: Unique Identifier of the local database in the client. Containing:
 - i. device: identifier of the device containing the source
 - 15 database (e.g. IMEI of the mobile equipment)
 - ii. database : identifier of the database (e.g. an URL of the Local Device Management Database)
- 20 - Target database: Unique identifier of the database in the server to be synchronized. Containing:
 - i. device: identifier of the device containing the target
 - 25 database (e.g. URL of the MNO's server)
 - ii. database : identifier of the database (e.g. an URL of the MNO's Device Management Database)
- 30 - Notification: Whether the Application shall be notified of the final result of the synchronization. (e.g. No notification requested)

E. The Mobile equipment receives all the parameters. The mobile is now able to initiate a synchronization process using the information given in the "Request synchronization" command. Synchronization is performed between the Local Device

35 Management Database in the mobile and the MNO's Device Management Database

in the MNO's server. Advantageously, a program is able to receive all the parameters and to activate the synchronization process.

5 F. The card device management application may be informed of the synchronization results if this was requested in the previous "Request synchronization" command.

10 This controlled synchronization may permit the MNO to offer different services to their subscribers and to perform various management functions. For example, knowing what is the version of an application currently installed in the mobile device, MNO is able to propose an available upgrade.

15 To be noted that the source database may be any database that can be accessed by the mobile equipment including databases (files, applications,...) of the SIM. This database can be indifferently located in the card CAR or in the mobile equipment MOB.

20 To be also noticed that the application in the card could use the card application toolkit functionalities to interact with other entities (e.g. the user). In this case, for instance, the user may be prompted before the synchronization command is sent, or it could be informed after the successful synchronization had taken place.

25 In the claims, said mobile equipment is more generally called first data processing system. In the same way, said server is called second data processing system.